through implementing agencies like voluntary organizations, National Institutes under the Ministry, ALIMCO, Zila Panchayats, DRDAs, etc.

(e) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities through State channelising agencies.

The details of these schemes are available on *www.socialjustice.nic.in.*

(f) The National Trust for Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is providing financial support to families who are willing to look after the health and livelihood needs of destitute and abandoned children with severe mental and multiple disabilities. The details of the scheme are available on the website of the National Trust (www. nationaltrust.org. in)

**Reduction in age limit for senior citizens**

2734. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Committee on Petitions Rajya Sabha, in its report recommended to decrease the minimum age for senior citizen from 65 years to 60 years in order to give them facilities for a longer period and accordingly her Ministry had directed to the States to implement the said recommendation; and

(b) if so, the States which are implementing the above direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):(a) Yes, Sir. The Parliamentary Committee on Petition in its 120th Report had recommended to decrease the minimum age for senior citizens from 65 years to 60 years. Accordingly, the Ministry has requested the concerned Ministries/Department, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for reducing the age limit to 60 plus for conferring status of senior citizen

and for extending concessions/benefits to them.

(b) The State Governments of Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are following the age of 60 years while in the State of Rajasthan the eligibility is 58 years for males and 55 years for females for disbursement of old age pension to senior citizens.

**District disability rehabilitation centres**

2735. SHRI S.ANBALAGAN:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY;

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of the sistricts disability rehabilitation centres;

(b) the number of such Centres that have been sanctioned and actually set up in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is proposed to open more such centres in the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):(a) The major functions of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) is to provide services for prevention, early detection and early intervention, fitment of artificial aids and appliances, therapeutical services such as physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy, facilitation of disability certificate, bus passes and other concessions, referral services for surgical correction/training for acquisition of skills through vocational training, arrangement of loans for self employments, job placement in local industries etc.

(b) There are six DDRCs sanctioned in Tamil Nadu out of which five centres *viz.* Madurai, Vellore, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar and Salem are and functional Kanyakumari could not become functional since the building of DDRC has not been provided by the District Administration. In Andhra